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ALLEGHENY FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION*

Forest Service — Philadelphia 7, Pa.
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WARTIME WORK OF THE ALLEGHENY FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION

Barometer of lumber production. Monthly surveys of lumber production are carried on for the War Production Board by means of a combination of mail canvass and personal follow-up of sample sawmills from Maine to Maryland. The cut by mill size-classes and species, estimated by "blowing up" the samples, is reported to WPB and to other government and state agencies. The estimated cut of these Northeastern States for the first 9 months of 1943 was 74% of the 1942 cut. The last quarter's cut is usually less than one-fourth of the yearly production so the total 1943 lumber production in the Northeast will probably be about 8% less than last year's.

Factors affecting production. By means of field contacts with mill owners, loggers, state and extension foresters, and others dealing with lumber and log production, the station reports quarterly to WPB on the reasons for production lags and suggests possible lines of action to increase production. Loss of labor to war plants and the armed forces is still the main factor.

Lumber stocks on hand. At three month intervals stocks of lumber on hand at the sample mills are determined and an estimate made of total stocks for the New England and Middle Atlantic States. Recently the station assisted in sampling the stocks on hand at wholesale and retail yards. Stocks on hand as of June 30, 1943, were estimated at 820,613 M feet B.M. which is 59.2% below those on hand December 31, 1941.

Assistance to sawmill owners and loggers. The station gets many requests for assistance in obtaining priorities for equipment and replacement parts. Questions on draft deferment of key men, location of stumpage, price ceilings, etc. are also often referred to us, as a result of our contacts with mill owners. Recently the Timber Production War Project has been organized in the Forest Service to aid lumber producers in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maryland, New York, and part of Delaware. Requests for assistance from these states will in the future be referred to this agency for action. In other states such problems are referred directly to the war agency concerned and recommendations made for action.

Census of lumber production. A 100 percent canvass of sawmills was made in New England and the Middle Atlantic states in the spring of 1943 to determine for WPB and the Bureau of the Census the total production of lumber in 1942. Production for the U. S. totaled 36.2 billion feet. New England and the Middle Atlantic states produced 1.9 billion feet. The Northeastern Region in 1942 produced 11% more than in 1941 according to census figures, but actually production was probably no more as the 100% canvass uncovered many mills for which no cut was reported in 1941.

Price fixing studies. A study was made for OPA of the cost of producing pulpwood in the Northeast and recommendations made for ceiling prices. Similar cooperative work preceded the establishment of ceiling prices for fuelwood in New England.

*In cooperation with the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa.

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Other special surveys. Several quick surveys have been made of such factors as tire and truck mileage used in hauling lumber and logs, dry kiln facilities in the northeastern region, effect of food rationing on lumber camps, use of spruce, fir and eastern hemlock bark for tannin, production costs of veneer plants and amount of labor being used in the lumber industry.

Forest fire danger studies. A series of fire danger stations have been installed at strategic locations along the northeastern coast to help state agencies to hold forest fires to a minimum to avoid silhouetting of ships, prevent smoke palls that interfere with coastal patrol and to be prepared for saboteurs. These meters are being serviced in part by the Allegheny Station. Such factors as temperature, humidity, wind movement and moisture content of forest litter are quickly measured and the danger of fire predicted. Patrols, lookouts and fire fighting crews are stationed accordingly.

Reducing labor needs. Studies of most efficient methods of cutting for hardwood pulp, chemical wood, mine props and fuelwood have been made or are under way. Typical results are that skidding tree lengths and bucking with a power saw can increase output of fuelwood 25%, that one man can produce 1 cord of chemical-wood from 42 trees 4 inches in diameter in 1 day, but he can produce 2 cords in a day by cutting 8-inch trees. Best results are obtained by cutting nothing less than seven inches. Labor is wasted cutting the little trees.

Camouflage studies. In cooperation with the Army, studies have been made of proper methods for camouflage planting, including methods of soil preparation, and use of growth substances to enhance growth and decrease mortality. Chemicals, properly applied, hold planting stock dormant until planted, others increase root growth and result in quick establishment. By turning the sod under and cultivating, hybrid poplars have been made to grow 20 feet tall in 3 years whereas planting them in untreated sod land resulted in almost certain death within 3 years.

Lumber Production - Northeastern States
January through September 1943

State	Lumber Production
	M bd. ft.
Connecticut	13,736
Maine	291,004
Massachusetts	65,917
New Hampshire	251,819
Rhode Island	1,927
Vermont	121,312
Total New England	745,715
Delaware	20,122
Maryland	87,525
New Jersey	16,712
New York	172,221
Pennsylvania	355,388
Total Middle Atlantic States	651,968
Total Northeastern States First 9 months 1943	1,397,683